



**Committee on  
Homeland Security Democrats  
Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Member**

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**For Immediate Release:**  
September 12, 2005

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**Statement of Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS), Ranking Member,  
House Committee on Homeland Security on  
FEMA Director Michael Brown's resignation**

"Michael Brown's departure is a welcome step in moving the nation forward on helping the Gulf Coast recover. I urge the Administration to put aside partisan politics when selecting the new leaders for FEMA and focus on assuring that they are qualified and understand emergency management. I commend him for selecting David Paulison as the acting director. As a person whose decades of experience includes serving as the Fire Chief for Miami-Dade county during the Hurricane Andrew disaster and the 1996 ValuJet Flight 592 airplane crash in the Everglades, he brings the type of expertise that FEMA needs.

"The American people deserve to have the best and the brightest at the helm of this critical agency if we are to rebuild the Gulf Coast and simultaneously develop real response and preparedness capabilities to help protect Americans from the dangers of terrorism and the aftermath of natural disasters."

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